IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 4, 5, 8-16, 18-19, 32 and 39 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as set forth below:

1.   (**Currently Amended**) A method of processing trade documents associated with a trade operation between a buyer and a seller comprising the computer-performed steps of:

maintaining a customer profile containing standard terms and conditions used by the buyer;

receiving from the buyer an initiation document containing requirement information with respect to the trade operation;

mapping at least some of the requirement information into a database;

generating a letter of credit if the initiation document is a purchase order or an application for a letter of credit, wherein the letter of credit is generated based on the requirement information and the customer profile;

~~automatically~~ generating the trade documents required by the trade operation utilizing the requirement information contained in the ~~database~~ letter of credit; and

verifying the accuracy of the trade documents throughout the trade operation.

2.   (Canceled)

3   (Canceled) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the step of receiving the initiation document further comprises the step of receiving the initiation document electronically.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (**Currently Amended**) The method as recited in claim [[5]] 1, further comprising the step of manually repairing the Letter of Credit if there is a discrepancy between the

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requirement information contained in the database and the standard terms and conditions contained in the customer profile.

7.   **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim [[5]] 1, further comprising the steps of:

issuing the Letter of Credit; and

advising the seller of the issuance of the Letter of Credit.

8.   (Canceled)

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Canceled)

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Canceled)

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of generating a sales order in response to the initiation document.

18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

comparing the sales order to the requirement information contained in the database in order to determine any discrepancies; and

correcting the sales order if there are any discrepancies, thereby generating a matched sales order.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

generating a manufacturing specification sheet using the sales order;

comparing the manufacturing specification sheet to the matched sales order in order to determine any discrepancies; and

correcting the manufacturing specification sheet if there are any discrepancies, thereby generating a matched manufacturing specification sheet.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

automatically generating shipping instructions using the matched sales order; and

transmitting the shipping instructions to a shipper.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the shipping instructions are a draft bill of laden.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the step of transmitting the shipping instruction to the shipper further comprises the step of electronically transmitting the shipping instructions.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 20, further comprising the step of generating an invoice.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 25, wherein the step of generating the invoice further comprises the step of automatically generating the invoice using the matched sales order.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

comparing the invoice to the matched sales order in order to determine any discrepancies; and

correcting the invoice if there are any discrepancies, thereby generating a matched invoice.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

receiving shipping instructions from a shipper;

comparing the shipping instructions to the matched invoice in order to determine any discrepancies; and

informing the shipper of the discrepancies whereby the shipper can correct the discrepancies and provide matched shipping instructions.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 27, further comprising the steps of:

automatically generating shipping insurance instructions using the matched invoice; and

transmitting the shipping insurance instructions to an insurer.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a certificate of insurance from the insurer; and

automatically generating the trade documents using the certificate of insurance, the matched invoice and the matched shipping instructions.

31.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 28, further comprising the step of automatically generating the trade documents using the matched invoice and the matched shipping instructions.

32.   (Canceled)

33.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 30, wherein the trade documents include the matched invoice, the matched shipping instructions, the certificate of insurance, packing slips, and a certificate of analysis.

34.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 30, further comprising the step of presenting the trade documents to the buyer for negotiation.

35.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising the step of performing a reconciliation function on behalf of the buyer.

36.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 34, wherein the step of performing a reconciliation function on behalf of the buyer further comprises the step of reconciling a payment due under the trade documents against the requirement information.

37.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising the steps of:

receiving payment information reflecting a payment made by the buyer, the seller; and

performing a reconciliation function on behalf of the seller in response to the payment information.

38.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 36, wherein the step of performing a reconciliation function on behalf of the seller further comprises the step of reconciling the payment information against the matched invoice.

39.   (Canceled)

40.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 38, further comprising the step printing the documents at a location which is in proximity to the bank.

41.   (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 39, wherein the trade documents are presented to the bank electronically.

42.   (Canceled).

43.   (Canceled).

44.   (Canceled).

45.   (Canceled).

46.   (Canceled).

47.   (Canceled).

48.   (Canceled).

49.   (Canceled).

50.   (Canceled).

51.   (Canceled).

52.   (Canceled).

53.   (Canceled).

54.   (Canceled).

55.   (Canceled).

56.   (Canceled).

57.   (Canceled).

58.   (Canceled).

59.   (Canceled).

60.   (Canceled).

61.   (Canceled).

62.   (Canceled).

63.   (Canceled).